



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, CITY OF KETCHIKAN, AND CITY OF SAXMAN

**EOC COVID-19 UPDATE: Two New Cases | Risk Level Reduced to Level 3 – High | Update to Risk Matrix**

Date: May 27, 2021  
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
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**For Immediate Release**

There are two new cases of COVID-19 reported today. One case was determined to be a close contact to a known positive case, and one case is under investigation.

Public Health and School District Nursing Staff will work with the positive cases to identify close contacts, and will reach out to anyone identified as a close contact and instruct them to quarantine and seek testing as appropriate.

**Hospitalization Update:** There are currently **THREE (3)** individuals admitted in the COVID-19 unit at PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center (PHKMC).

The total cumulative case count, including travelers, is **661**. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **640**. Of the 640 cases, there are **39** active, **2** deceased, and **599** recovered.

**Community Risk Level Lowered to Level 3 – High**

The number of community spread cases has decreased to six within the last 7 days, and the number of overall positive cases has been on a steady decline. The vaccination rate of Ketchikan’s total population has increased to 51 percent, which has allowed for an adjustment of the risk matrix. More information about the Risk Matrix is provided on Page 2. Because of these factors, the EOC has lowered the Community Risk to Level 3 – High.

**Community Risk Level 3 – High Recommendations for unvaccinated individuals:**

<b>Level 3 - High</b>	Significant: Limit non-essential travel outside home (unless vaccinated) Schools: Reference KGBSD Plans/Policies*** Indoor: Limited small <20 mass gatherings with safety precautions (funeral, wedding, etc.) Outdoor: Limited small <30 gatherings with safety precautions Businesses limited openings with safety measures** Modified healthcare services (e.g. telemedicine, essential care, chronic care) No non-essential visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation with expanded safety measures (e.g. low risk) **
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CDC Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated Individuals are available at:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

### **Risk Matrix Updated to Reflect Vaccination Rates of 50-69.99 Percent**

The Ketchikan EOC has updated its community risk indicators to account for the fact that 51 percent of Ketchikan residents are now vaccinated. The new indicators are available in the [VRA – Community Risk Dashboard](#) page.

The adjusted risk matrix increases the threshold necessary to increase the risk level, and slowing down the increase between risk levels for the following risk indicators:

- Percent of positive cases (positivity rate),
- Congregate or industry cases,
- Travel cases,
- Total testing per population.

The revised risk levels take the following into consideration:

- Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to test or quarantine following a close contact with a positive.
- Higher vaccination rates in the community lead to fewer people being tested.
- Even though a positive case may increase our positivity rate due to lower testing numbers, the overall community risk lessens with the significantly increased number of vaccinated individuals.

These adjustments represent relatively small incremental changes that should help keep us in the right place without risking overestimating--or underestimating--our current risk.

### **Drive-Up Testing Closed May 30 and 31 for Memorial Day Weekend**



This week, the Berth 3 Drive-Up Testing Clinic will be available Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. AND 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Testing is available for anyone who is symptomatic, believes they may be a close contact to a known positive, may have recently been exposed to COVID-19, or has recently traveled.

In observance of Memorial Day, the Berth 3 Drive-Up Testing Clinic will be closed Sunday, May 30 and Monday, May 31.

For vaccine information or to see a list of local providers go to: [www.kgbak.us/covidvax](http://www.kgbak.us/covidvax).

Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan, including additional case data, local vaccination data, Ketchikan’s community risk, Berth 3 drive-up testing, and airport traveler testing, is provided at [www.kgbak.us/covid19](http://www.kgbak.us/covid19).

General Information on the COVID-19 vaccine in Alaska is provided at <http://covidvax.alaska.gov>.